

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chrighi, U.S. Publication No. 2008/0038493. Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saueressig, DE 19918432 which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,823,787. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrighi in view of Beaudry, U.S. Publication No. 2006/0021534. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrighi in view of Lorig, U.S. Patent No. 5,797,322. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saueressig in view of Beaudry. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saueressig in view of Lorig.

Claims 11, 14 and 19 are hereby amended. Claim 17 is hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 22 to 28 are new.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112(b), second paragraph**

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claim 14 is hereby amended. Applicant respectfully submits claim 14 is clear, definite and particularly points out and distinctly claims Applicant's invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112(b), second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chrighi, U.S. Publication No. 2008/0038493.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 to 13, 15 to 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chrighi, U.S. Publication No. 2008/0038493. In response, Applicant herewith submits a certified copy of DE 10 2004 015 248.9 filed on March 29, 2004, the priority application of the instant patent application. Applicant also herewith submits a copy of PCT/IB05/00722 which is an accurate English language translation of DE 10 2004 015 248.9.

(See 37 CFR 1.55(a)(4)(ii)). Applicant notes that the invention of claims 11 to 28 was disclosed in the priority application. By submission of the accurate English translation and certified copy of the priority document, priority to March 29, 2004 is established and the Chrigui reference cited in the Office Action may not be considered prior art to the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. (See MPEP 706.02(b)).

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11 to 13, 15 to 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for this reason is respectfully requested.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saueressig, DE 19918432 which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,823,787.

Saueressig discloses a cylindrical core cylinder 2 that has an expandable layer 3 attached. The expandable layer 3 is provided with depressions 4 on its outer circumferential surface. A sleeve 1 is attached to the core cylinder 2 and the expandable layer 3. To facilitate attachment, a channel 5 is running through the core cylinder 2 and expandable layer 3, over which the sleeve 1 can be charged with pressure. See col. 4, lines 34 to 49.

As amended, claim 11 recites “[a] packing sleeve for a printing unit cylinder of an offset printing press comprising:

an outer lateral surface having at least one region and a slot; and

an inner lateral surface, the slot being continuous and extending from the outer lateral surface to the inner lateral surface, the slot receiving edges of a plate-form printing plate or a printing blanket;

the at least one region including an area having a plurality of incisions;

the plurality of incisions increasing an elasticity of the packing sleeve in a peripheral direction.” (Emphasis added).

Saueressig does not teach “the slot being continuous and extending from the outer lateral surface to the inner lateral surface, the slot receiving edges of a plate-form printing plate or a printing blanket” as now recited in claim 11. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Saueressig, channel 5 runs through core 2 and expandable layer 3 in a location at an end of the expandable layer, channel 5. “To facilitate attachment a channel 5 is running through the core cylinder 2 and

expandable layer 3, over which the sleeve 1 can be charged on with pressure, which could be generated using a gaseous medium.” (See col. 4, lines 42 to 46). Thus, it is very clear that channel 5 is used to supply pressurized gas to fit sleeve 1 over expandable layer 3. Channel 5 cannot receive a plate-form printing plate or printing blanket. Thus, channel 5 is not a “slot being continuous and extending from the outer lateral surface to the inner lateral surface, the slot receiving edges of a plate-form printing plate or a printing blanket” as now recited in claim 11.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrighi in view of Beaudry, U.S. Publication No. 2006/0021534.

Beaudry discloses a vacuum roller which has a sleeve 20 that includes a plurality of perforations/apertures 22 arranged in a predetermined pattern.

Since Chrighi is not prior art and Beaudry does not disclose each of the limitations recited claim 11, the combination of Chrighi and Beaudry does not render claim 14 unpatentable as obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrighi in view of Lorig, U.S.

Lorig discloses a printing roll for rotogravure printing.

Since Chrighi is not prior art and Lorig does not disclose each of the limitations recited claim 11, the combination of Chrighi and Lorig does not render claim 19 unpatentable as obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saueressig in view of Beaudry.

Beaudry discloses a vacuum roller which has a sleeve 20 that includes a plurality of perforations/apertures 22 arranged in a predetermined pattern.

Beaudry does not disclose the limitations of claim 11 missing from Saueressig, and thus the combination of Saueressig and Beaudry does not render claims 13 and 14 unpatentable as obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saueressig in view of Lorig.

Lorig does not disclose the limitations of claim 11 missing from Saueressig, and thus the combination of Saueressig and Lorig does not render claim 19 unpatentable as obvious.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

#### New Claims

Claims 22 to 28 are new. Support for new claim 22 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 15 and 16. Support for new claim 23 may be found in the specification; for example, at page 5, lines 28 and 29. Support for new claim 24 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 16 and 17. Support for new claim 25 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 9 to 11. Support for new claim 26 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 4 to 6. Support for new claim 27 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 16 and 17. Support for new claim 28 may be found in the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 24 to 28.

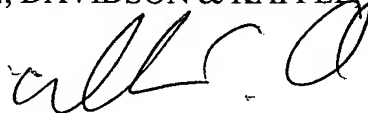
Claims 22 to 28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11. Saueressig is discussed above. Saueressig does not teach or disclose the limitations recited in claims 22 to 28 for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11. Consideration and allowance of claims 22 to 28 is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,  
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